



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **THREE RHODE ISLAND PRACTICES JOINING PRIMARY CARE PRACTICE TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE**

***The R.I. Chronic Care Sustainability Initiative (CSI-RI) selects Blackstone Valley Community Health Care, Jean Hicks Health Center/East Bay Community Action Program and University Family Medicine, Inc. to participate in multi-payer demonstration of the Patient-Centered Medical Home***

**RHODE ISLAND** – The R.I. Chronic Care Sustainability Initiative (CSI-RI), one of the first medical home demonstration projects in the country, has expanded the Initiative to include three additional practices, adding 16,000 additional patients to the list of over 70,000 patients currently served by the CSI-RI. The new practices are Blackstone Valley Community Health Care located in Pawtucket and Central Falls, Jean Hicks Health Center, part of the East Bay Community Action Program, located in Newport and University Family Medicine, Inc. in East Greenwich.

CSI-RI launched its first five pilot sites in 2008, and last expanded in 2010. This year, the CSI-RI selection committee received and reviewed 24 applications from practices across Rhode Island that wanted to join. The committee followed an extensive and objective selection process, based on the applicants' service to Medicare and Medicaid patients, ability to use Electronic Health Records, commitment to establishing a patient-centered care team and demonstration of high quality care.

"The number of interested applicants shows strong interest by the primary care community in this model of care. It tells us that practices want to become Patient-Centered Medical Homes, and gives them better tools to provide high-value services that can improve the health of their patients," said Tom Bledsoe, MD, chair of CSI-RI executive committee. "We are pleased to welcome Blackstone Valley Community Health Care, Jean Hicks Health Center and University Family Medicine, Inc. to our team and look forward to welcoming more practices in the future."

In a Patient-Centered Medical Home, doctors use advanced health information technology to power patient-centered health care teams, which coordinate care for patients throughout the health care system. In these practices, patients have a point person (often a nurse) who they can call to help navigate a complex and confusing health care system. The care team also works with the patient to develop an individualized holistic health care plan that meets their needs. The practice then uses advanced health information technology to ensure that the patient gets the right care, at the right place, at the right time.

As part of the Medicare multi-payer demonstration, Blackstone Valley Community Health Care, Jean Hicks Health Center and University Family Medicine, Inc. will become Patient-Centered Medical Homes through required participation conditions, such as a commitment to achieving specific National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA) levels of recognition by set deadlines and producing clinical quality reports to share publicly, among others. CSI-RI aims to have the newly selected practices on board with the demonstration project by October 1, 2012.

Participating practices are required to engage in a common contract with all payers in Rhode Island, including Medicare, Medicaid, Tufts Health Plan, Neighborhood Health Plan of R.I., United Healthcare of R.I. and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of R.I. Practices receive a Patient-Centered Medical Home supplemental payment from payers to support their medical home transformation efforts. The payment, determined through a common contract, will increase over four years,

based on practice performance. Practices are required to become active members of the Initiative, including participation in governance, data collection and evaluation efforts.

“Patient-centered medical homes are critical to building an integrated health care system that delivers comprehensive primary care,” said Christopher Koller, R.I. health insurance commissioner. “The addition of new practices and patients in this demonstration project will help us achieve our goal of improving the quality and efficiency of health care service delivery and outcomes.”

Through CSI-RI, Rhode Island is seeing positive results through collaboration among providers, payers and consumers that is essential to transforming primary care. As the Initiative grows, CSI-RI is examining additional expansion opportunities.

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The Rhode Island Chronic Care Sustainability Initiative (CSI-RI) is a community-wide collaborative effort convened in 2006 by the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner to develop a sustainable model of primary care that will improve the care of chronic disease and lead to better overall health outcomes for Rhode Islanders. CSI-RI is governed by a coalition of healthcare stakeholders, convened by the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner. CSI-RI coalition members include payers, primary care providers, employers, state agencies, technical experts and community organizations. For more information, visit [www.pcmhri.org](http://www.pcmhri.org).